(a) whether the confrontation is continuing on the border after the Kargil War;

(b) if so, how many violations of the LoC took place after Kargil War and how many casualities occurred on Indian side;

(c) whether Government have taken up the violations of LoC with the Pakistan Government; and

(d) if so, the reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Exchange of firing along the Indo-Pak border in J & K is a regular phenomenon. The motive behind Pak unprovoked firing is well-known.

(b) After the Kargil conflict till 20th April, 2000 there have been 11 incidents of Pak attempts to capture our posts along the Actual Ground Position Line and the Line of Control, resulting in the estimated 50 fatal casualties on Pak side. On our side, there have been casualties of 19 killed, 1 wounded and 2 missing.

(c) Government have repeatedly called upon Pakistan to maintain sanctity of Line of Control which is rooted in the Simla Agreement, the corner stone for India-Pakistan relations.

(d) It has been the usual posture of Pakistan to deny the unprovoked firings coming from that side.

Defence Co-operation with Foreign Countries

3965. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) how many foreign defence delegations visited India during 1999-2000 till date, and whether any Indian defence delegation also went abroad on reciprocal basis;

(b) whether any agreements were signed by India with foreign countries during the above period for wide ranging defence cooperation including training of personnel and exchange of latest-technology, purchasing of defence equipment/information for mutual benefits; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, country-wise and year-wise till date ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) From 1-1-1999 till date seventeen foreign defence delegations visited India and twenty three defence delegations from India visited foreign countries. It will not be in the interest of national security to disclose further details of these visits. In addition, defence delegations from twenty seven countries visited India in connection with Defence Exhibition 1999 held from October 12-16-1999 in New Delhi.

The above visits do not include 'IN' and 'OUT' Goodwill visits at the level of Service Chiefs.

During these visits only one MOU and one Agreement as detailed below were signed :—

(i) An MOU was signed on 24th July, 1999 between the Governments of the Republic of India and the Republic of Namibia on acquisition of aircraft and marine vessels.

(ii) A General Agreement was signed on March 22, 1999 between the Governments of India and Russian Federation on training of defence personnel.

Group 'A' Officers in MES

3966. CHAUDHARY CHUNNILAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that MES executes civil works for departments of Ministry of Defence only, whereas CPWD does so for remaining Ministries;

(b) whether the combined strength of Group 'A' and Commissioned Officers in MES is double the strength of Group 'A' officers in CPWD;

(c) as to why a substantial annual saving of more than 200 crores is not being achieved by manning MES by existing strength of civilian officers and staff and deployment of army personnel in their corps functions here a serious shortage exists; and

(d) the action being taken on recommendations of Fifth Central Pay Commission for progressive civilisation of MES ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.